

RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD

November 10, 1999

MINUTES

I. Introduction

Khizar Wasti, Ph.D., Director, Division of Health Hazards Control, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D.; Mary Ann Turner, M.D.; Edway R. Johnson; Herman M. Moore, Jr.; Ted Sherwin, D.D.S.; Lewis N. Springer, D.V.M.; Panos Fatouros, Ph.D.; Clark Russ, M.D.

Members absent: Dennis C. Stanley, M.D.

Ex Officio Members present: John Beers, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, representing J. Carlton Courter, III; George Urquhart, Department of Emergency Services, representing Michael Kline; Jeff Brown, Department of Labor and Industry, representing John Millsbar; and Alan J. Anthony, Department of Environmental Quality, representing Dennis Treacy.

Ex Officio Members absent: Tom Grose, Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

III. Introduction of program staff, guests, and visitors

Les Foldesi introduced program staff to the Board: Radiation Safety Specialists - Robert E. Gonsoulin, Al Perlas, Lea Anna Perlas, and Stan Orchel, Assistant Director, X-ray Program.

Guests were also introduced: Dr. Charles Showalter and Penny Butler; staff members from the American College of Radiology; and Fah Leong, M.D. and Ester P. J. van der Wal, M.D., interns.

III. Approval of March 27, 1998 Minutes

Dr. Lee S. Anthony made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. George Urquhart seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Radiation Advisory Board Minutes

November 10, 1999

Page 2

IV. Call for Additional Agenda Items

Dr. Lee S. Anthony stated that he had an additional item, which should be included under New Business.

V. Program Activities

A) Dr. Wasti stated that Dr. W. S. Dingledine has submitted his resignation from the Board. The Governor's Office has been requested to appoint a replacement. On October 19, 1999, Dr. Anne Peterson was confirmed and appointed State Health Commissioner. In the Office of Epidemiology, there has been a change of staff. Dr. Grayson Miller resigned as Director of that office and is now Director of the Crater Health District, with his office in Petersburg; Dr. Robert B. Stroube is now Director of the Office of Epidemiology, and also has been Acting Deputy Commissioner for Public Health. Dr. Clydette Powell, who has been serving as Acting Deputy Commissioner for Public Health, will return to her post as the Deputy Commissioner for Health Policy and Health Care Delivery. Dr. Stroube will serve as Acting Deputy Commissioner for Public Health.

Dr. Peterson asked Dr. Wasti to chair the Radiation Advisory Board meeting.

NRC Agreement State - Recommendation was made for Virginia to become an agreement state. Delegate Katzen introduced a Bill, HB 2655 to the General Assembly (a copy was given to each board member).

Mr. Urquhart inquired if money would show up in December? Dr. Wasti responded that it has to be appropriated by the General Assembly.

Dr. Lee Anthony made a motion that the Governor's Radiation Advisory Board write a letter to the Governor recommending that he fund and approve Virginia's becoming an NRC Agreement State as soon as feasible.

Dr. Sherwin seconded the motion.

Dr. Russ inquired whether any of the funds would support programs. He also asked if the Board meeting is a public hearing; thereby being open to the public (i.e., media, citizens). Public comment period should be included on agenda.

Radiation Advisory Board Minutes

November 10, 1999

Page 3

VI. Program Activities (Continued)

Dr. Wasti responded that the General Assembly has to approve and/or give FTE's. A fiscal analysis was done in May and sent to Board members.

The Board members were given a copy of the House Joint Resolution No. 642 directing the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the feasibility of regulating mammography equipment, facilities, and services in Virginia.

Dr. Wasti provided a copy of the State Health Commissioner's response to the Joint Commission on Health Care regarding the Draft Issue Brief entitled "Renal Dialysis/Mammography Study-HJR556 and HJR 642".

Radon – The current Virginia Code requires that individuals testing for radon and contractors mitigating radon have to be listed as proficient through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA discontinued the proficiency program and kept their list on the website until September 1999. Two organizations--the National Radiation Safety Board and the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)---have initiated similar programs and provide a list of contractors.

MQSA - Mammography Program entitles the Virginia Department of Health to do inspections of mammography facilities annually. FDA has renewed the contract with the Virginia Department of Health for another year.

NRC Contract – allowed Radiological Health to take samples and monitor the nuclear power stations in the State. Funds were no longer available as of June 1998. The Virginia Department of Health will continue this activity at reduced levels. DES has agreed to provide for this activity financially, at \$18,000 a year. The Consolidated Laboratory Services will continue the activity of analyzing the environmental samples.

Dr. Wasti provided a copy of the Issue Briefing submitted to Secretary of Health and Human Resources, regarding Radiation Monitoring of Environmental Samples around Nuclear Facilities in Virginia.

Radiation Advisory Board Minutes

November 10, 1999

Page 4

VII. Program Activities (Continued)

B) Les Foldesi gave an overview of the program's activities.

During the presentation regarding emergency preparedness, Mr. Urquhart asked why the state was not stockpiling Potassium Iodide (KI) for the general public. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently reviewing the policy for stockpiling KI for the general public. Currently the State Radiological Emergency Response Plan provides for the distribution of KI to emergency workers deployed within the ten-mile Emergency Planning Zone for either nuclear power station. Persons responsible for institutionalized individuals are responsible for providing KI to those individuals. Potassium Iodide is used to mitigate the bioconcentration of radioactive iodine inhaled during a nuclear power plant accident by blocking the thyroid gland from absorbing additional iodide.

VIII. Old Business – Revision of the Radiation Protection to the Regulations

Dr. Anthony requested an update on the regulations. The Radiological Health staff had prepared a draft set of regulations that are compatible with the NRC's regulations and protection standards. However, the regulating process of rule making has undergone several changes and the draft

regulations experienced several delays and were withdrawn prior to the Board of Health's approval as proposed regulations. Dr. Russ asked if VDH had any specialists to review the Regulations and was told no.

V. New Business – Mammography

Dr. Turner introduced Penny Butler, Director of Breast Imaging for the American College of Radiology (ACR). Ms. Butler presented an overview of the ACR's accreditation program to mammography facilities.

Dr. Turner made a motion to request Dr. Peterson, State Health Commissioner, send a letter to the Joint Health Commission, that the Radiation Advisory Board recommends adoption of Policy Option 1 – Take no action as stated in the JCHC's Mammography Study. Dr. Sherwin seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Radiation Advisory Board Minutes

November 10, 1999

Page 5

VI. Next meeting: Members discussed either meeting in April after the General Assembly session is over; or once Advisory Board members were given opportunity to review draft regulations in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.